



Effects of cemeteries on the residents of Ondo Metropolis, Nigeria

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General Note



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ABSTRACT

The study examined the effects of cemeteries on the residents of Ondo metropolis. Survey research design was adopted and both primary and secondary data were sourced. A multi-stage sampling technique was adopted, in which the region was delineated with the cemeteries identified, while a buffer zone of 300 meters was created around each of the eleven cemeteries. A set of structured questionnaire was administered to 292(10%) of 2,981 house identified within the buffer zones. Data were analysed using both descriptive and inferential (simple linear regression) statistics at p value =0.05. The study revealed that there were more females (55.4%) than males; Reminder of the dead loved ones (86.0%) ranked the first and Releasing of stench (54.4%) ranked the least being ninth effect of cemeteries respectively, Cemeteries have significant effect on the life of the respondents ($F= 6.27$). Therefore, effective planning guideline should be established on locating cemeteries.

Keywords: Cemetery, Psychological Effects, Residents, Ondo region

1. INTRODUCTION / STATEMENT OF PROBLEMS

People all over the world are faced with certain problems in life, especially that of death. Death is a universal experience. At its simplest, Chidester (2002) perceives death as 'the cessation of life'. Death is an elusive and difficult concept to define. Of all the problems that confront man in life, perhaps the most terrifying is death. It is also an emotive subject because, ordinarily, and in normal situations, people do not like to talk about death, let alone their own death. In spite of the universal nature of some of these problems, there are cultural and historical differences that affect the way people formulate, interpret and give meaning to their experiences. At some stage in every human life cycle, we all die and our remains need to be managed. Cemeteries constitute a major part of the public facilities through which remain of people are disposed of. By cemetery, we mean a burial ground, especially a large landscaped park or background laid out expressly for the deposition or interment of the dead, not being a churchyard attached to a place of worship (Curl, 1999 in Rugg, 2000). In the global setup, cemeteries have a multifarious social and personal level function. Besides disposing of bodies, communities commemorate the dead with the displaying and construction of identities that this entails.

Cemeteries therefore, differ significantly from one cultural society to another. While some bury their dead at selected public cemeteries, others may choose to bury theirs at home. How societies bid the deceased farewells are therefore dictated by cultural values, religion and belief systems. This explained why Collier (2003) affirms that 'the way in which people deal with death is an important aspect of the way in which they relate to and make use of their culture, just as religion, a fundamental part of culture, makes death comprehensible, understandable, and interpretable'. In the United States, death has mostly ended with burial, but since the late 1960s other methods have become more common (Prothero, 2001; Rugg, 2000). More often than not, the planning of cemeteries as public facilities has a serious influence on the neighborhood of its planning location. Meanwhile, land allocation through zoning is expected to identify and arrive at a suitable location or place with a reasonable level of functionality attained, which is also capable of reducing negative environmental and social factors. This is why a design of cemeteries is an outcome of a good functional urban neighborhood design.

Cemeteries on one level are often about the past we bury in them but on another, they are inherently future-oriented. Further, as they evolved, cemeteries are fundamentally modern institutions (Eggenger, 2010). Modern cemeteries are increasingly privately owned, providing cemetery services to the public at large. Religious cemeteries, such as Catholic and Jewish cemeteries, typically continue to focus on clients that share their faith. Traditionally, other denominations have been accommodated within non-denominational cemeteries through purpose-built burial gardens. Non-denominational cemeteries provide funeral and burial services to the members of the public who may not have a particular religious affiliation, or for other reasons choose to be buried in these types of cemeteries.

Recently, a number of other religious groups are developing cemeteries focused on their faith. The cost of land, and the planning approvals process, however, can be tedious and is considered to be a deterrent to many groups (The Toronto Star, 2011). That is to say, most burial sites are not well planned, leaving behind some externalities which may have negative effects on the people.

Various attempts have been made by researchers in investigating planning for the cemeteries as well as their impacts on the wellbeing of people. For instance, in analyzing the environmental impact of burial ground, Anim (2010) appraised the impacts on Kpando in Ghana. He observed that a significant number of burial grounds contaminate their water resources. Similarly, Oliveira et al. (2012) worked on sites close to the cemeteries and found that populations living close to cemeteries may be exposed to elevated levels of highly contaminants harmful to human health. A Northern Ireland Environment Agency (2016) document chronicles how burial practices can affect the underground water. He explained that after a while in the ground, a body and its coffin will begin to decay. Others scholars whose works on cemeteries centred on ground water contamination included; Balogun (2010); Marcomini (2012); Oliveira et al. (2012); Żychowski, 2012), (Geleta et al., (2014); Całkosiński et al., (2015) and Killgrove and Montgomery, (2016).

Meanwhile, studies on Socio-economic and environmental impacts of indiscriminate burials on property transaction as having significant effect on property value has been documented (Olajide and Abiodun 2013 and; Joseph 1974) Findings revealed that, burials within residential neighbourhood had considerably reduced economic value of such property: building with tombs do not command reasonable price in property market, retard physical development of the neighborhood and negatively affect payment of compensation if plots of such buildings were compulsorily acquired.

Furthermore, studies carried out by Petru Lucian Curşeu (2011) on epitaphs reflect personal as well as social identity (in which individuals are described as members of both the family and the community) playing two important roles for the community members: they serve as a message to the dear ones and as an external memory of the community's social norms and shared worldview. The second revealed the social representation of the modern cemeteries revolving round three main themes: it's symbolic, economic and local identity value.

In terms of the psychological state of the people, a study on the Emotional attitudes of residents to cemeteries revealed that older people associated with cemeteries appeared to be unsecured than younger people; they have negative attitudes and stronger stress reactions than younger people towards certain land uses that may cause problems (Tudor et al., 2013) and (Les Fee 2016). Although, these studies have identified a number of issues relating to burial practice, providing some insights on the existing studies, however, the effects of cemeteries on residents have not been adequately researched in literature. This study therefore examined the effects of cemeteries on the residents of Ondo Metropolis, Ondo state, Nigeria with view of providing planning solution the existing problem in the study area. In order to further achieve this, a hypothesis which states that location of cemeteries in Ondo town has a significant effect on the psychological life of the residents was formulated.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

It is important to note that various burial practices as good as they can appear have series of impacts on the environment. In analyzing the environmental impact of burial ground, Anim (2010) appraised the impacts on Kpando in Ghana. He observed that a significant number of burial ground contaminate water resources. The decomposition of buried human corpses could have a negative impact on the ground water, due to contamination that occurs as a result of organic residue and pathogens that are generated during the decomposition process.

This view was corroborated by Balogun (2010) who identified water pollution as a major source of sickness and death of humans in many countries indiscriminate sitting of grave yard within the residential neighborhood was identified as one of the causative agents of water pollution.

A Northern Ireland Environment Agency (2016) document chronicles how burial practices can affect the underground water. He explained that after a while in the ground, a body and its coffin will begin to decay. As this happens, fluids can leach out and may eventually work their way down to the groundwater underlying the site. This fluid may contain embalming fluid, pathogens/microbes and nitrogen compounds which could contaminate groundwater. In some cases it may also pose a health risk if it contaminates a groundwater-fed drinking water source. As groundwater can travel considerable distances underground (and with it any pollutants), it is necessary to consider the possible risk of groundwater contamination when planning new graveyards or cemeteries.

Marcomini (2012) and Oliveira et al. (2012) provide more vivid illustration of how cemeteries induce water pollution. They relay that as sites where human matter undergoes changes through the action of biological, physical or chemical agents, cemeteries pose environmental risks for the population due the levels of contaminants released. They emphasised that cemeteries represent a source of environmental liability due to their potential to accumulate and release large quantities of contaminants generated by the decomposition of corpses. Effluents can carry microorganisms and heavy metals through the soil to water resources. Since these environments have concentrated potential polluters (i.e., are pollution point sources), populations living close to cemeteries may be exposed to elevated levels of highly harmful contaminants to human health. This is exacerbated by the lack of management and treatment of highly pathogenic effluents released by corpses (necroleachate) during the decomposition process.

The above mentioned issues represent a matter of concern because groundwater can be contaminated by nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), bacteria and viruses, These factors contribute to increasing water percolation in the soil, thereby favouring proliferation of pathogenic bacteria (Żychowski, 2012). Excessive physical – chemical or biological cemeterial soil contamination has been reported in other regions of the world (Geleta et al., 2014; Całkosiński et al., 2015; Killgrove and Montgomery, 2016). There is a need of building appropriate cemeteries to adequately receive dead bodies and minimize the effects of juxtaposition between residential and cemeterial areas.

Socio-economic and environmental impacts of indiscriminate burials on property transaction has a significant effect on property value. That is, burials within residential neighborhood had considerably reduced economic value of such property: building with tombs do not command reasonable price in property market, retard physical development of the neighborhood and negatively affect payment of compensation if plots of such buildings were compulsorily acquired (Olajide and Abiodun 2013). Similarly, cemeteries tax exception has negative financial effect on the city government. This reversal in the decision which impeding the logical pattern of future growth (Joseph, 1974).

According to Petru Lucian Curșeu (2011) epitaphs reflect personal as well as social identity (in which individuals are described as members of both the family and the community) and play two important roles for the community members: they serve as a message to the dear ones and as an external memory of the community's social norms and shared worldview. The second revealed the social representation of the modern cemeteries revolving round three main themes: it's symbolic, economic and local identity value.

Emotional attitudes of residents to cemeteries revealed that older people associated with cemeteries appeared to be unsecured than younger people; they have negative attitudes and stronger stress reactions than younger people towards certain land uses that may cause problems. Cemeteries can also hold deep significance for families with loved ones buried in the area. Local cemeteries can help offer a space that brings comfort to families (Tudor et al., 2013) and (Les Fee 2016).

With regard to the reviewed work done in this area, the effect of cemeteries on the residents have not been adequately researched. This study therefore, is design to investigate the effects of cemeteries on the residents of the Ondo region with view of providing planning solution the existing problem in the study area.

3. STUDY AREA

Ondo metropolis is easily accessible through Akure in the North, Ile-Ife in the west and Ore in east. It is under the jurisdiction of Ondo West and Ondo East Local Government. Ondo metropolis lies on latitude 07 6'N and longitude 04 50'E south of Greenwich meridian. It is between 250 – 500 meters above the sea level. It is situated in South-Western Nigeria. It has a population of 358,430 (NPC, 2006) and a total land area of 970 square km (figure 1 & 2). The climate of the Metropolis is of lowland tropical rain forest type with distinct wet and dry seasons. In the south, the mean monthly temperature is 27°C with a mean monthly range of 2°C while mean relative humidity is over seventy-five percent but the three months of November, December and January may be relatively dry. The mean annual total rainfall exceeds 2,000 millimetres; the rainfall is very heavy especially during the raining season (April–October). The Metropolis falls within the sub-equatorial region characterised by a monsoon climate. The temperature is relatively high throughout the year with an average daily temperature of about 27°C (80F), with marked seasonal changes in rainfall and relative humidity.

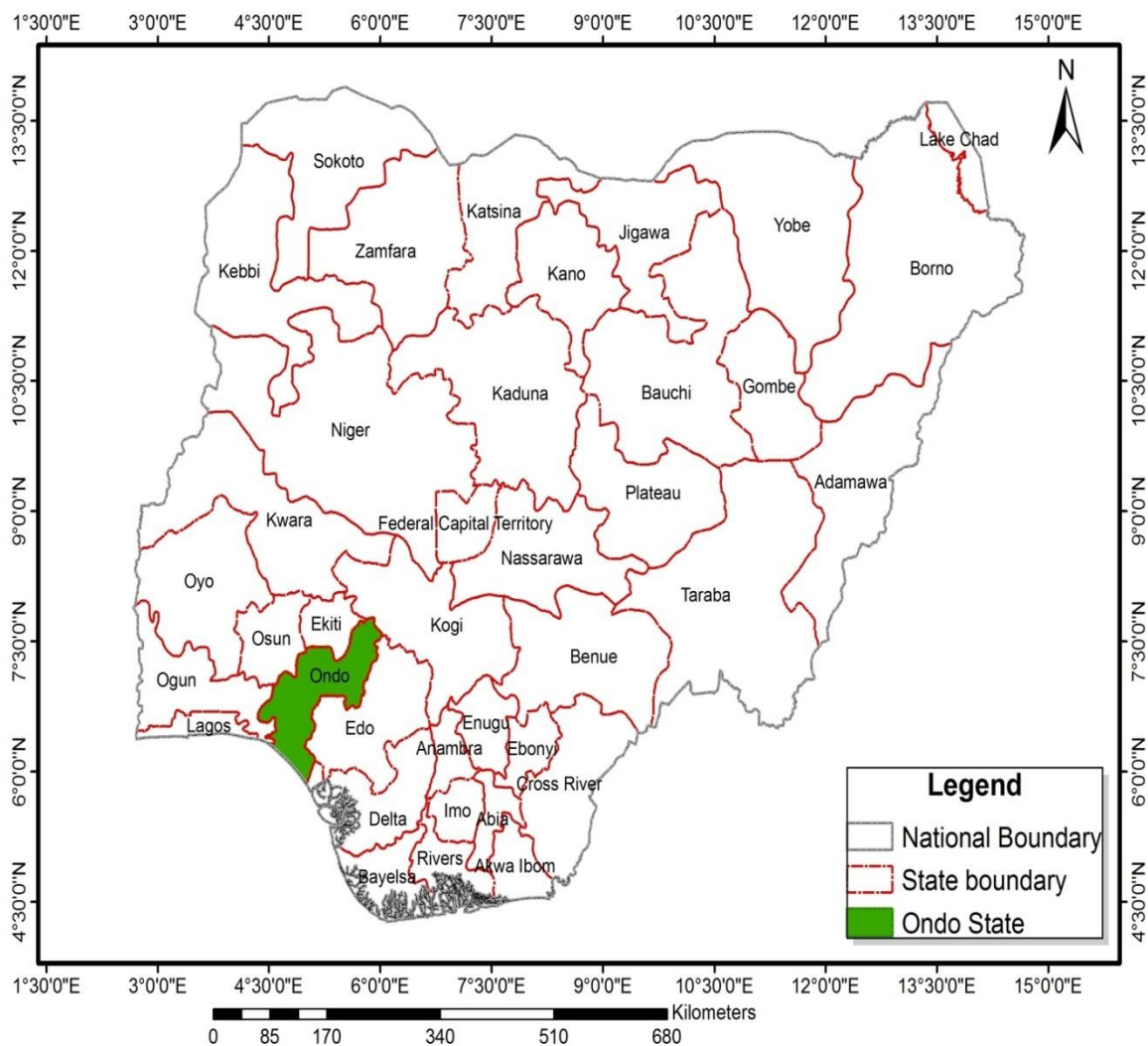


Figure 1 Ondo State in the National Context (Source: Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development Akure, 2017)

The study area falls within a mixture of the rainforest and savannah that has been subjected to cultivation over the years. It has dense trees and undergrowth of creepers despite the age long human interference with the original forest vegetation. Trees found in this area are characteristically evergreen. Ondo metropolis is composed of lowlands and rugged hills in some places, some of the more prominent hills found at Oke-Agunla and Omolooore rise between 100-250 meters above the sea level. The rivers in the study area include the Lisaluwa and Oke-Lisa. The most outstanding characteristics of the drainage systems over the areas of basement complex rocks are the proliferation of many small river channels. The channels of the smaller streams are dry for many months especially from November to May. The soil here varies from highly skeletal soils on rock outcrops to sandy loamy. It also has rich alluvial soil which encourages agriculture in the cultivation and production of cocoa, kolanut, tea, maize and also raw materials like timber, rubber etc. for industries.

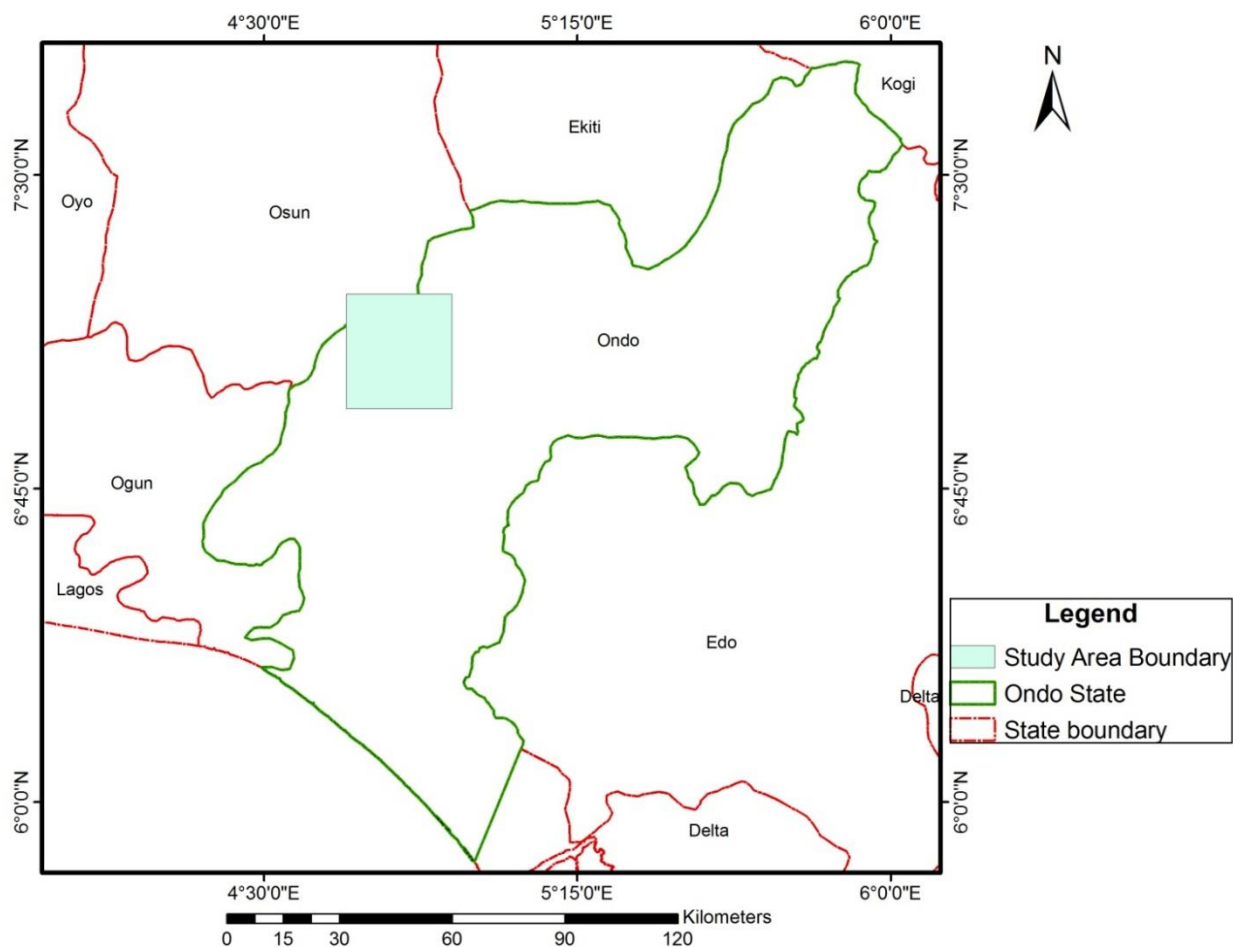


Figure 2 Ondo Town within the Ondo State Context (Source: Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development Akure, 2017)

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Participants and field survey

A field survey was conducted with the participation of the residents of the city of Ondo metropolis, Nigeria. A total of 292 (10 %) out of 2,981 samples size were taken and responses were collected for analysis. Questionnaires were distributed to household heads. In a situation where a household head was absent, we gave any adult who was 18 years and above who was matured enough to understand the question. We did the distribution in all houses around the selected cemeteries.

Materials

Survey research design was utilised while both primary and secondary data were collected for the study. From the pilot surveys that preceded the study, we asked the respondents to give the possible effects of cemeteries on them. Base on their responses we were able to generate a list of nine major effects such as : menace to the environment; defaces the environment; distort the use of land; release of stench; contamination of ground water; reduction in property value; very expensive; increase fear, reminder of the dead

loved ones. All the responses were negative and we consequently ranked them base on their responses in order to determine severity of each variable on them. We measured psychological effect using the respondent's responses on whether or not cemetery had effect on them, with the aid of Google map software; we measured the distance of each cemetery to the existing houses.

Procedure

Using a multi-stage sampling technique, all cemeteries in the metropolis were identified. A buffer zone of 300 metres radius was created around each cemetery in the study area. Google map software complemented with ground-truthing was used to identify all the houses within the buffer zones, differentiating residential houses from other land-uses. All the streets were identified and all the sampled residential houses in the buffer zone were taken. Subsequently, we administered questionnaires systematically to a household head in each building giving credence to every 10th house in the study area. Only the returned copies (285) were analysed. We equally conducted Focus Group Discussion (FGD) in the study area. Adeyonu led each group discussion for different days covering seven days (an average of 2 sections per day). The participant were organised with help of the district head in the study area in all each section had 8 participants. Both descriptive and inferential statistics (simple linear regression) were used to analyse quantitative data at $P \geq 0.05$ level of significance while content analysis was used to analyse the qualitative data (table 1).

Table 1 Sample Frame, Sample Size and Number of Questionnaires

| Name of cemetery | Housing Unit (300m) to the Cemetery | Questionnaire administered (10%) | Number of Questionnaire Retrieved |
|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| St Stephen's Cathedral New Cemetery | 348 | 35 | 34 |
| Oke-Otunba Central Mosque Cemetery | 295 | 30 | 28 |
| St Mary Anglican Church Cemetery | 436 | 44 | 44 |
| Christ Apostolic Church General Cemetery. Ondo DCC | 178 | 18 | 16 |
| Ogo-Olorun C/S Cemetery | 227 | 23 | 23 |
| All Saints Ang. Church First Cemetery | 184 | 19 | 19 |
| All Saints Ang. Church Second Cemetery | 198 | 20 | 18 |
| St Matthew's Catholic Church Cemetery | 305 | 31 | 31 |
| St Patrick Catholic Cemetery | 241 | 24 | 24 |
| St Stephen's Cathedral (Old Cemetery) | 430 | 34 | 34 |
| Okuudu (Former Cemetery) | 139 | 14 | 14 |
| Total | 2981 | 292 | 285 |

Source: Author's Compilation, (2018)

5. DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

Socio-Economic Characteristics of Respondents

The socio-economic characteristic is of the respondents investigated in the study area are: sex, age, marital status, educational status, employment status and monthly income, and presented in Table 2. Distribution of respondents by sex revealed higher proportion of female (55.4%) than males (44.6%). Observed higher proportion of females among the respondents might owe much to the time when the questionnaires were administered, as most of the men were already at their various places of occupation and it was, in most cases females that often work within the vicinity of homes that provided the required information.

Investigations on distribution of respondents by age revealed that close to a third (33.0%) of them were aged between 18 and 29 years; 27.0% were aged between 30 and 40 years; only 8.8% were aged above 70 years; and the rest (31.2%) were aged between 40 and 69 years (Table 2). That all sampled population were adults, aged at least 18 years, implies that they could provide reliable information for the study. In terms of respondents' marital status, investigations revealed that 57.9% of them were married, 34.0% were single, 6.3% were widowed, and 1.8% was separated (Table 2). Observed high incidence of 'married' and very low incidence of 'separated' among the respondents might not be unconnected with high social status attached to being married among the Yorubas, a sub-group of which Ondo indigenes are. The belief among the Yorubas that any marriage blessed with at least a child cannot be easily dissolved could also be significant in explaining the observed low incidence of 'separated' among the respondents.

Investigations on respondents' level of education attained revealed that more than three-fifths (61.8%) of the respondents had tertiary education; 24.6% had secondary education; 3.5% had primary education; and 10.2% had no formal education (Table 2). Observed high proportion of educated respondents in the study area might owe much to the fact that the city is in Southwestern Nigeria where Free Primary Education program was launched in 1955 (63 years ago) and secondary education has been tuition-free in public secondary schools since 1979 (39 years ago).

Investigations on respondents' occupation revealed that more than a third (35.1%) were self-employed; 27.0% were unemployed; 17.9% were in the civil service and 4.9% were artisans (Table 2). Observed high incidence of 'unemployed' among the respondents might not be unconnected with the general high level of youth unemployment in the country. Distribution of respondents based on monthly income revealed that 23.9% of them earned at most N18, 000 per month; 30.9% earned between N18, 001 and N30, 000; 16.8% earned between N30, 001 and N60, 000; 9.8% earned between N6, 001 and N100, 000; and 18.6% earned more than N100, 000 per month (Table 2). Observed distributions of the respondents by income indicate that more than two-fifths of the respondents earned income that could only guarantee their mere subsistence.

Table 2 Socio-Economic Characteristics of the Respondents

| Characteristics | | |
|---------------------------|-----------|------------|
| | Frequency | Percentage |
| Sex | | |
| Male | 127 | 44.6 |
| Female | 158 | 55.4 |
| Total | 285 | 100 |
| Age (in years) | | |
| 18 – 29 | 94 | 33 |
| 30 – 40 | 77 | 27 |
| 41 – 50 | 50 | 17.5 |
| 51 – 69 | 39 | 13.7 |
| 70 and above | 25 | 8.8 |
| Total | 285 | 100 |
| Marital Status | | |
| Single | 97 | 34 |
| Married | 165 | 57.9 |
| Widowed | 18 | 6.3 |
| Divorced | 5 | 1.8 |
| Total | 285 | 100 |
| Educational Qualification | | |
| No Formal Education | 29 | 10.2 |
| Primary Education | 10 | 3.5 |
| Secondary Education | 70 | 24.6 |
| Tertiary Education | 176 | 61.8 |
| Total | 285 | 100 |
| Employment Status | | |
| Unemployed | 77 | 27.0 |
| Self-Employed | 100 | 35.1 |
| Trading | 43 | 15.1 |
| Artisan | 14 | 4.9 |
| Civil servant | 51 | 17.9 |
| Total | 285 | 100 |
| Monthly Income | | |
| Below #18,000 | 68 | 20.9 |
| #18,000– #30,000 | 88 | 30.9 |
| #30,001– #60,000 | 48 | 16.8 |

| | | |
|--------------------|-----|------|
| #60,001 - #100,000 | 28 | 9.8 |
| #100,001 and above | 53 | 18.6 |
| Total | 285 | 100 |

Source: Author's Field Work, 2018.

Perceived Effects of Cemeteries in the Study Area

Investigation on the perceived effects of cemeteries in the study area is presented in table 3. Respondents were required to select as many options as possible from the nine identified variables. From the details of the ranking of the perceived severity of effects of cemeteries in the study area, it was observed that 'reminder of the dead loved ones' was identified as the most severe effect of cemeteries in the study area accounting for 86.0%. This high ranking shows deep historical connection the dead can have on the living ones as they bring residents closer in understanding the past and help to provide insights into how people within the area used to live. Focus group discussion held with a cross section of the respondents revealed that the cemeteries can offers a space that bring comfort to families as they struggle with their grief while remembering the loved ones. It can also become a host of ritual events for family who are directly linked to the family. The second most prominent effect of cemeteries which accounted for 81.8% in the study area is 'increased fear'. As high as 75.1% of the respondents perceived cemeteries as a menace, 69.1% perceived it as defacing the environment; 68.1% perceived cemeteries as being very expensive; 68.1% see it as distorting the use of land; 67.0% were of the opinion that a cemeteries reduce property values; 62.5% see cemeteries as source of contaminating underground water; and 54.4% of the respondents perceived cemeteries as releasing stench, thereby fouling the air of the various cemeteries (table 3). The low ranking of both the eight and the ninth effects may not be unconnected with the fact that though majority of the respondents were literate, yet they were deficient of geotechnical knowledge in which stanches are being released into the environment (Table 3). These agreed with the finding of Amin (2010) and Balogun (2010) earlier mentioned in this study. All of these factors are largely traceable to inadequate planning in the study area.

Table 3 Severity of Effects of Cemeteries in the Study Area

| Effect of the Cemeteries | Percentage of the Respondents | Rank |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Reminder of the dead loved ones | 86.0 | 1 st |
| Increased Fear | 81.8 | 2 nd |
| Defaces the environment | 75.1 | 3 rd |
| Menace to the environment | 69.1 | 4 th |
| Very Expensive | 68.1 | 5 th |
| Distort the use of a land | 68.1 | 5 th |
| Reduction in property value | 67.0 | 7 th |
| Contamination of ground water | 62.5 | 8 th |
| Release of stench | 54.4 | 9 th |

Source: Author's Compilation, 2018.

In addition, FGD conducted in the study area also provided an insight into what obtained in the area apart from the issues raised on the perceptions of the people in terms of the nine perceived effects of cemeteries in the study area. Response from the cross section of the respondents revealed that fear and emotional trauma affected the people. It is a fact beyond dispute that every culture, no matter how primitive, or how sophisticated, evinces the fear of death and by extension, the cemeteries. One of the respondent said, 'even though I enjoy the serenity some other residents of Ondo would crave for, but anytime I set my eyes on cemeteries, my head will swell to the point of almost running away'. Similarly, a student who had just finished his Senior School Certificate Examination, said, 'I could not wait to leave this area and go to school, because sometime, I do hear some strange sounds and voices and I wondered whether it is my imagination or for real, I even find it difficult to say such things so that am not taken for evil or superstitious. Do you know that at times my younger ones are traumatized to the point of not being able to sleep after seeing people washing corpses in the middle of the road?'

The area is also affected economically; according Akinyelure, 'the peak period for sales our place here starts from 6 pm in the evening when everybody would have returned from the farm. People within the neighborhood out of fear always find it difficult to go out and buy anything. Since they would have to go bed early and wake up late, our business have suffered collapse. Most time we ended up turning the food items we sell to domestic consumption'. One of the residents recalled that 'there was a time I

boarded a motorcycles and the biker would literally turn back on approaching the cemetery and asked if I lived in the burial ground, because he saw me going farther into the cemetery, not knowing there was a path beside it that leads to my house. If I can still remember, there was a time an Okada man had to leave the money because he saw me as a ghost and sped back immediately and was screaming as if he saw a ghost coming to slap him. He recounted that he almost had an accident that day.'

In terms of cemeteries defacing the environment, menace to the environment as well as reduction of the property value in the study area, the age long history of the town being the administrative provincial headquarter of the colonial master was enough to have a positive impact on the physical planning of the area. However, observation of the area shows a clear non adherence of the developer to planning guidelines. This was evident in the location of cemeteries almost close to the residential areas. James, a resident in the area said, 'the rental value of the area has gone down drastically. Some even came to collect their money from estate agents when they realise that the intended rental apartment is located close to the cemeteries. One guy that is living in a room and parlour apartment in my house told me he was trying to raise money to get another apartment and vacate his cemetery-ridden abode. Believe me sincerely, I feel cheated by the estate agent who never told him the detailed of what obtained there'.

Hypothesis testing

In order to further investigate the effects cemeteries have on the residents of the study area, a hypothesis which states that location of cemeteries in Ondo town has a significant effect on the psychological life of the residents was formulated. The regression output (Table 4) reveals that there is a negative relationship between the independent variable (cemetery) and the dependent variable (psychological effect on the people) ($R = 0.147$, $\beta = -0.218$). The determinant coefficient is equivalent to $(0.147)^2 * 100$, when combined, the predictor variable predicted about 2.2% of the psychological effects experienced by the respondents ($F = 6.27$; $p > 0.05$). It is statistically significant, which implies that the predicted variable (cemetery) has a significant effect on the psychological life of the respondents. Therefore, the hypothesis which states that location of cemeteries in Ondo town has significant effect on the psychological life of the residents was accepted. Findings further revealed the summary of the relationship and the impact of the independent variable on the dependent variable ($\beta = -0.218$; $t = -2.504$; $p > 0.05$). This implies that the cemeteries has a little influence on the respondents and are not good enough to predict the psychological wellbeing of the respondents. It can therefore be deduced that there are other factors that contributes to the effects of cemeteries on the life of the respondents.

Table 4 Effect of the Cemeteries on the Residents

| Variable | Beta | Std. Error | T | R | R ² | F | P Value |
|-----------|--------|------------|--------|-------|----------------|------|---------|
| Intercept | 13.709 | 4.104 | 3.341 | | | | |
| Cemetery | -0.218 | 0.087 | -2.504 | 0.147 | 0.022 | 6.27 | 0.013* |

Source: Author's Field Work, 2018

*Significant at 5%

6. RECOMMENDATION / CONCLUSION

This study analysed the effects of cemeteries on the residents of Ondo Metropolis. It was revealed that there was a significant relationship between cemeteries and environmental psychological economic life of the respondents, thus having effects on the people in the study area. Therefore, appropriate planning measures in the siting of cemeteries should be enforced. In addition, the citizen to plan for should be involved as well as their cultural value being incorporated into the planning of cemeteries viz the people to plan for.

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